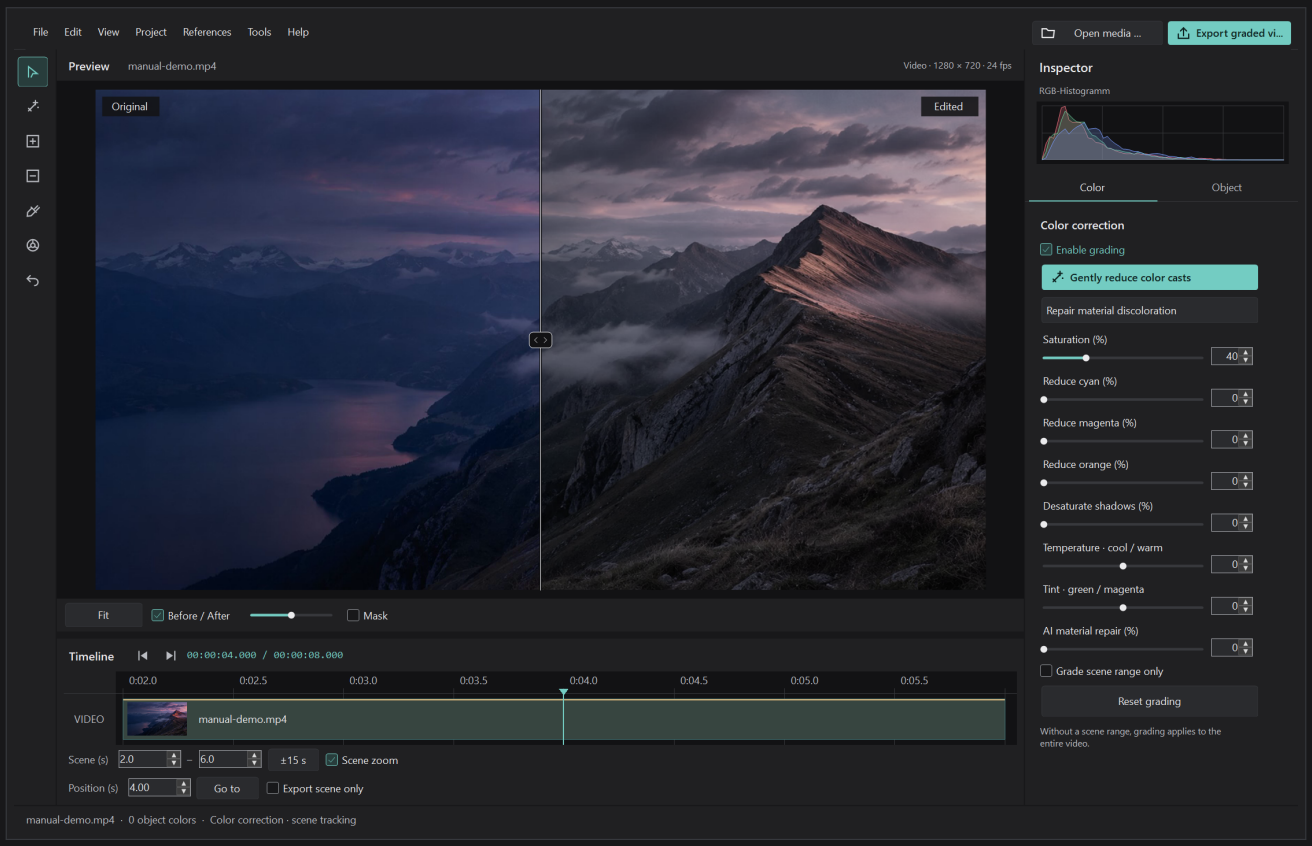
ColorStudio

User Manual

Colorize photos. Grade video.



Version 0.1.0 · 29 November 2026 edition · Windows x64

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1 Getting started

1.1 Installation and language

Install ColorStudio for Windows x64. Image processing runs locally. Drop a file onto the workspace or choose **File → Open media …**. Select German or English under **Help → Language** and restart ColorStudio to apply the change.

1.2 Free, the Pro trial and Creem

The first launch starts a 14-day Pro trial. Free continues to offer DeOldify photo colorization, manual photo grading, GPU acceleration and full-resolution photo export without watermarks. See **Help → Compare Free and Pro …** for the feature list.

1. Open **Help → Manage license …**. Connect the computer to the internet for activation.
2. Enter the key issued by Creem for ColorStudio and select **Activate**.
3. Wait for **ColorStudio Pro · license activated**. The signed receipt permits offline use on this computer.

1.3 Workspace

The left toolbar contains object selection, the AI selection brush, the eyedropper and the color wheel. The preview displays the open file. The RGB histogram and inspector sit on the right. A timeline appears below the preview for videos. Use the menus to open project files and color references.

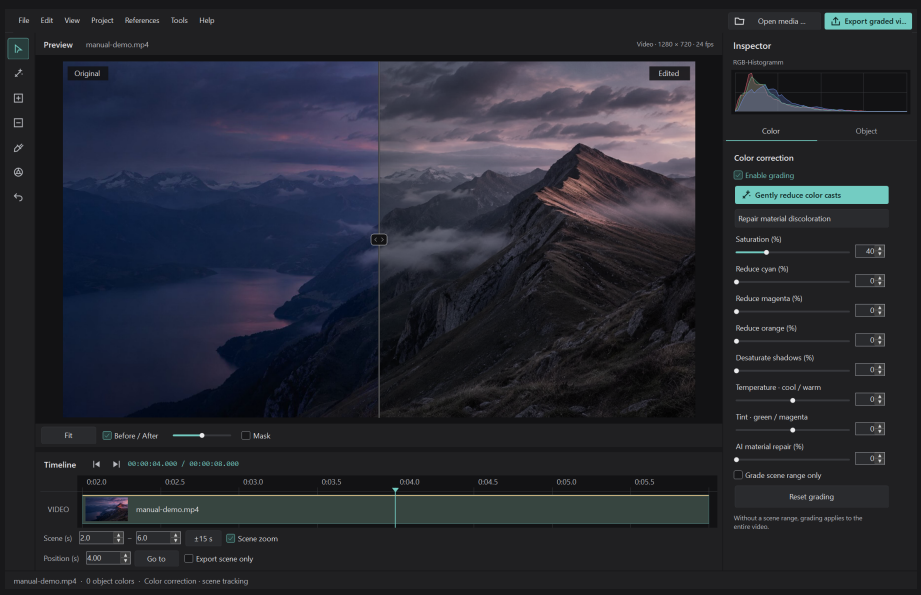


Figure 1.1: Video with before-and-after preview, inspector and timeline.

2 Editing photos

2.1 Colorize a photo

1. Open a black-and-white photo. In the inspector, select **AI Models**, then **DeOldify Artistic**. Pro also offers **DDColor Large**.
2. Choose **Original photo** as the input and select **Apply model**. The result appears in the preview.
3. Enable **Before / After**. Drag the slider or the divider in the image. The original appears on the left and the edited image on the right.
4. Select **Export photo**. Save the result in an export folder. The export creates a provenance file alongside the image.

2.2 Denoise and upscale with Pro

Select **SCUNet** for noise and film grain or **Real-ESRGAN** for 2x or 4x upscaling. To continue editing a processed image, choose **Current result**. Adjust the strength as a percentage. **Undo last edit** restores the previous state.

2.3 Object color and mask in Pro

Select an object with the AI selection brush. Hold Ctrl or Shift to add to the selection and Alt to subtract areas. Check the selection with **Mask**. Choose a target color in the inspector or sample one with the eyedropper. **Apply object color** commits the change to the current edit.

Check fidelity
Colorization estimates plausible colors. Use documented color references when historical accuracy matters.

3 Grading video with Pro

3.1 Edit a scene

1. Open a color video using **File** → **Open color video ...**. Click or drag in the timeline to jump to the desired frame.
2. Enter the scene bounds in seconds. **Scene zoom** limits the timeline to that range.
3. In **Color**, select **Enable grading**. Start with **Gently reduce color casts** or adjust saturation, color casts, temperature and tint. Select **Grade scene range only** to limit the correction to the selected range.
4. Select **Export scene only** to output just the range, then start the export. The video is saved as a new file in the selected folder.

3.2 Colorize black-and-white footage and save projects

Open the video in standard mode and choose **Generate AI color preview** in **Object**. The preview processes the current frame. Video export uses DDColor and can apply saved object references. Use **Project** → **Save project ...** to save your settings. Manage color references from **References**.

4 Troubleshooting and licenses

4.1 Common issues

Activation fails

Check your internet connection and use your ColorStudio Pro license key. If activation is temporarily limited, wait and try again. **A model fails to run**

Check the model status in the inspector. If GPU processing fails, try **CPU · local**. Large photos and high upscale factors require more memory. **A scene will not export**

Check that the end is after the start and the active correction overlaps the export range. Use **Project** → **Choose export folder …** to select a writable folder.

4.2 Look up components and rights

Open **Help** → **Third-party licenses** for component provenance and the included license texts. The Creem key unlocks ColorStudio Pro. Each model and component is governed by its own license terms. Activation sends the entered key and a pseudonymous installation identifier to the activation service. Photos and videos remain on the computer.